

BLACK HISTORY: PAST AND PRESENT

Friday, February 25, 2005 C.A. Fredd Cafetorium
SHELTON STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Stella Logan - ^{Sing song} to clam

Black History: Past and Present

February 25, 2005

Invocation

Mr. Fran Viselli

Welcome

Dr. Rick Rogers

Presentation of Colors

Central High School JROTC

Pledge of Allegiance

National Anthem

Ms. Brittany Norris

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

Mr. Levert Hedgemon

Chorus Director

Westlawn Middle School Choir

Occasion

Dr. Cordell Wynn

Music

Westlawn Middle School Choir

Central High School Choir

A Walk Through History

Ms. Carolyn Edwards

History Classes: Tuscaloosa City Schools

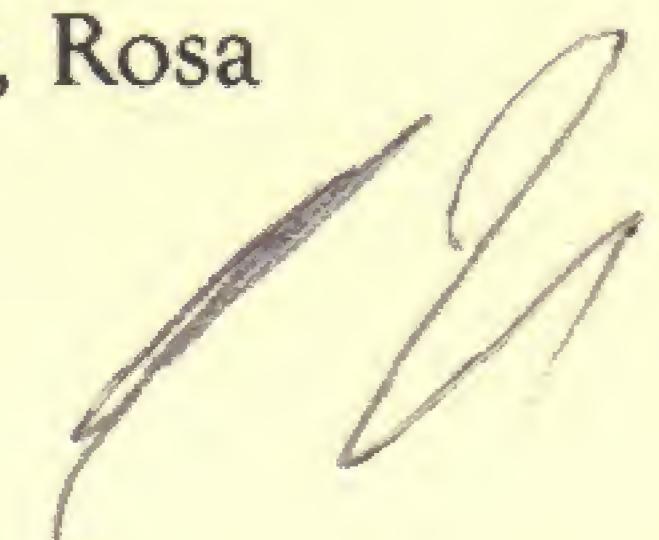
Special Recognition (Unsung Heros)

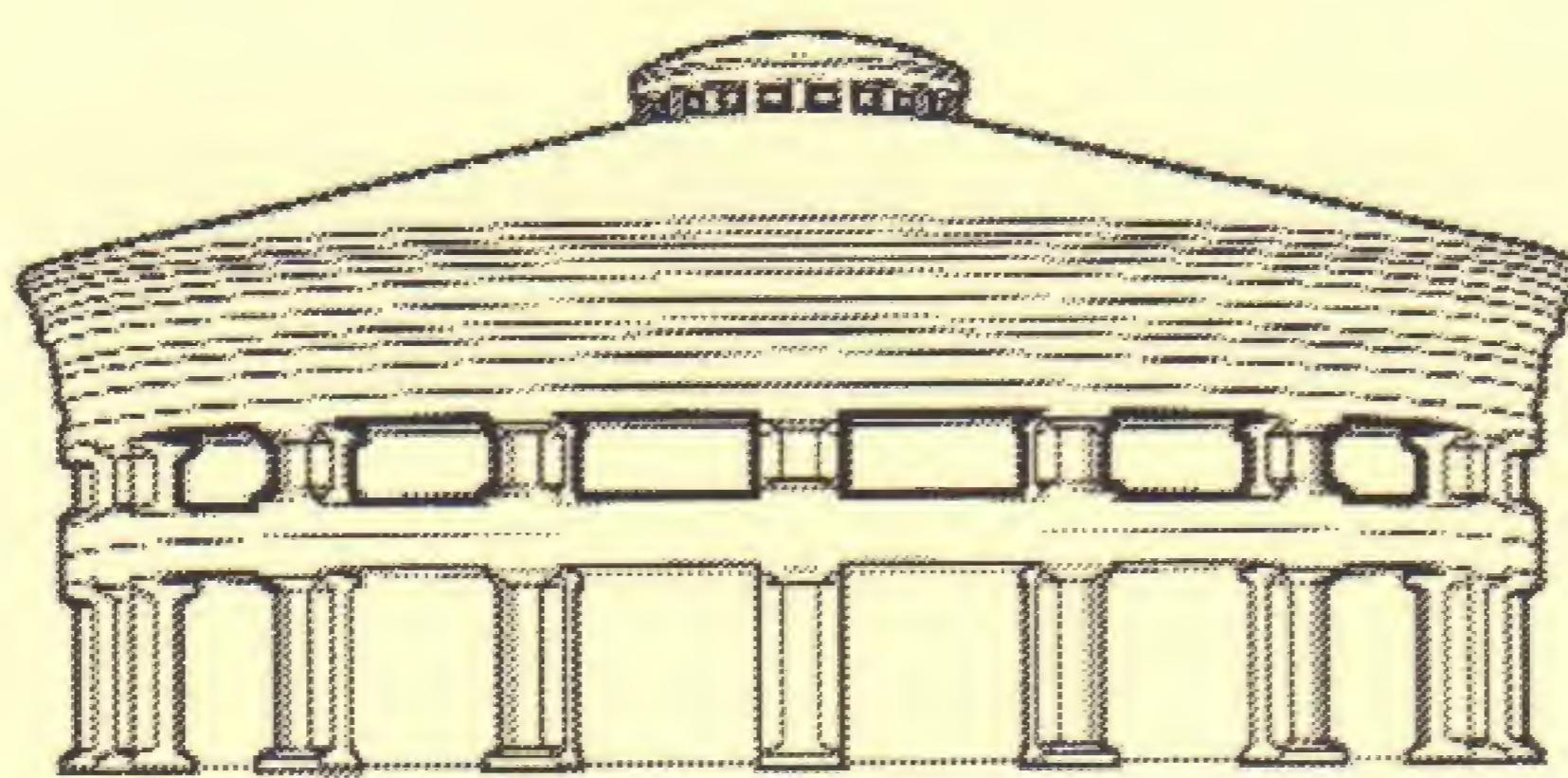
Mr. Ronald Range

Remarks

Dr. Bryant Melton

Pictured on the cover (beginning top left): Jackie Robinson, Dr. Martin Luther King, Frederick Douglass, Maya Angelou, Mohammed Ali, W.E.B. Dubois, Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Zora Neale Hurston, Billie Holiday, Rosa Parks, Thurgood Marshall





SHELTON STATE

C O M M U N I T Y C O L L E G E

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as "Negro History Week" and later as "Black History Month." Black history had barely begun to be studied—or even documented—when the tradition originated. Although blacks have been in America at least as far back as colonial times, it was not until the 20th century that they gained a respectable presence in the history books.

We owe the celebration of Black History Month, and more importantly, the study of black history, to Dr. Carter G. Woodson. Born to parents who were former slaves, he spent his childhood working in the Kentucky coal mines and enrolled in high school at age twenty. He graduated within two years and later went on to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard. The scholar was disturbed to find in his studies that history books largely ignored the black American population—and when blacks did figure into the picture, it was generally in ways that reflected the inferior social position they were assigned at the time.

Woodson, always one to act on his ambitions, decided to take on the challenge of writing black Americans into the nation's history. He established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (now called the Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History) in 1915, and a year later founded the widely respected *Journal of Negro History*. In 1926, he launched Negro History Week as an initiative to bring national attention to the contributions of black people throughout American history.

Woodson chose the second week of February for Negro History Week because it marks the birthdays of two men who greatly influenced the black American population, Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.